

Remarks

The Office Action requires restriction of the present application to one of claim groups I (claims 10, 13, 20-22, 1-3), II (claims 11, 5-7), III (claims 4, 8, 12, 14-15, 18-19, 23-26), and IV (claims 16-17). Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction for the reasons stated below.

In the foregoing amendment, Applicants have attempted to clarify the subject matter to which the claims are respectfully drawn. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are not appropriately or correctly grouped in the Action, and request that the restriction be revised to the following claim groups I (claims 3, 5, 10, 13, and 20-22), II (claims 6-7 and 11), and III (claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14-19, 23-26).

In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 2 would be more appropriately grouped and classified in group III, rather than group II. The Office states that claim group I is “drawn to protocol conversion, classified in class 709, subclass 230.” Whereas, claim group I is stated to be “drawn to presentation service, classified in class 709, subclass 203.” Amended claim 1 contains no mention of “presentation.” However, claim 1 recites the action of “proxying service control requests per the peer networking protocol from the network directed to the device services of the hosted logical device within the peer networking host, wherein the peer networking host invokes the respective device service responsive to a particular service control request.” In this action, the method responds to a service control request in the peer networking protocol by invoking a device service of a logical device. The recited language is directed to subject matter akin to the claims already grouped by the Office in claim group III.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5 would be more appropriately grouped and classified in group III, rather than group II. The Office states that claim group I is “drawn to protocol conversion, classified in class 709, subclass 230.” Whereas, claim group II is stated as being “drawn to event notification, classified in class 709, subclass 224.” Claim 5 is directed to a “peer networking host system,” that is recited to comprise “a control server operating to proxy service control commands from computing devices on the network in the peer networking protocol by invoking respective of the device services corresponding to the service control commands.” Claim 5 makes no mention of eventing or event notification. Rather, claim 6 (which depends from claim 5) recites an “eventing server.” Applicants therefore submit that the Office’s assertion that claim 5 is “drawn to event notification” is incorrect. Accordingly, Applicants request that claim 5 be grouped in claim group III.

Claim 9 was not included in any of the groups by the Office. Claim 9 recites, “a service control server module operating responsive to control messages received in the peer networking protocol at the computer from the network that are directed to the services of the logical device so as to invoke the services in accordance with the control messages.” Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the claim would be appropriately examined with claim group III.

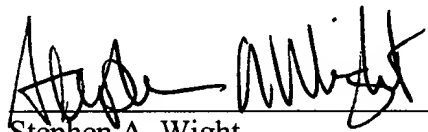
Claims 16-17 also would be appropriately grouped in claim group III. The Office asserts “claims 16-17 drawn to subscribing/registration system classified in class 709, subclass 223.” However, claims 16 and 17 are not drawn to registration of subscriptions. For example, claim 16 recites “registering” data of software-provided logical devices in a registry, which is then provided on request by the host to other peer networking devices. The claim does not recite the host registering subscriptions from the logical devices. Further, claim 16 recites, “in response to a service control request from the peer networking devices in the peer networking service control protocol directed to a service of the software-provided logical device, converting the service control request into a service invocation to said software.” As already remarked, claim group III is asserted to be “drawn to protocol conversion.” Because claim 16 recites “converting the service control request into a service invocation,” claim 16 also would be more appropriately grouped in claim group III.

Subject to the foregoing traverse, Applicants provisionally elect Group III for examination in the present application, which should be revised to include claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14-19, 23-26.

Respectfully submitted,

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